

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1-17. (Cancelled)**

**18. (Previously presented)** A method for preparing a needle crystal comprising a C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative and C<sub>60</sub> fullerene molecules that is single crystalline and having a hollow structural portion by a liquid-liquid interfacial precipitation method, which comprises (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative and the C<sub>60</sub> fullerene molecules therein, wherein the amount of the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative to be added is in the range of 1-10 mass % for the C<sub>60</sub> fullerene molecules, is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent; (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the solution and the second solvent; and (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the liquid-liquid interface.

**19. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative is  $(\eta^2\text{-C}_{60})\text{Pt}(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ .

**20. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

**21. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.

**22. (Previously presented)** A C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon.

**23. (Previously presented)** The C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having a hollow structural portion.

**24. (Previously presented)** The C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having an end that is closed or open.

**25. (Currently amended)** A method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon, ~~which comprises said method consisting of the following steps:~~

(1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative therein is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent;

(2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the solution and the second solvent; ~~and~~

(3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the liquid-liquid interface; and

(4) a step in which either a vacuum thermal treatment at 600°C or higher or an irradiation of an electron beam with high energy of 100 keV or higher ~~at room temperature~~ is carried out ~~for~~ on the carbon fine wire.

**26. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative is  $(\eta^2\text{-C}_{60})\text{Pt}(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ .

**27. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

**28. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.